



## NEWS RELEASE

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

*DAN WURL  
Fire Chief*

**DATE:** *March 14, 2011*  
**CONTACT:** *Tracey Martinez, Public Information Officer*  
*(909) 387-5950, 800-426-8689, pager #3307*

### **Would you be ready to ride it out if an earthquake hit today? San Bernardino County Fire is Prepared, are YOU?**

San Bernardino County Fire urges residents to be prepared in the event of a catastrophic earthquake.

The old saying it takes something drastic to happen to make us take notice is more prevalent than ever these days. Recent natural disasters such as the devastating earthquakes in Japan, New Zealand, Haiti and Chili underscore the importance of individual preparedness.

California's Emergency Management System is the envy of the country, with Fire, Law Enforcement and Emergency Management Mutual Aid available across the state. Even so, Volunteers from programs like CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) may have to provide help and rescue until the first responders can arrive.

San Bernardino County Fire stands prepared to respond to a major earthquake. We are one of eight California fire departments that are certified by the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services to host a Regional Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Task Force. A Regional USAR Task Force includes 29 personnel specially trained for USAR duty. Urban Search and Rescue teams respond to events such as earthquakes or terrorist incidents that cause widespread damage to a variety of structures and entrap up to hundreds or thousands of people. Other examples of USAR events can range from mass transportation accidents with multiple victims to single-site events such as a trench cave-in or confined space rescue involving only one or two victims. This status also allows for County Fire's Regional USAR Task Force to respond to requests for assistance from other agencies in California when requested through the Master Mutual Aid System.

Since 2006, San Bernardino County participated in the annual Golden Guardian Exercise, a statewide disaster preparedness program sponsored by the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and the Governor's Office of Emergency Services and hosted by the San Bernardino County Office of Emergency Services. These exercises provide first responders from local government and state agencies with the opportunity to see what works and what doesn't when they put their plans into action. One important lesson already learned is that no single city or county can meet all the needs of its residents and businesses in a catastrophic situation.

Yes California is the leader in developing and using seismic building codes. However, earthquakes will happen and damage will occur. There is no such thing as "earthquake proof". According to the California Emergency Management Agency, most residents of California will not be killed or injured by the next earthquake, but they will be inconvenienced by damage to freeways, utility grids, and the telephone system. It is up to every individual, family and business to take the earthquake threat seriously and be ready. If you are ready, you will be a resource to your family and community.

- more -

What we do now, before the earthquake, will determine what our lives will be like after. The following are key actions from the Seven Steps to Earthquake Safety ([www.daretoprep.org](http://www.daretoprep.org)):

- Do a "hazard hunt" for items that might fall in your home during earthquakes and secure them,
- Create a personal or family disaster-preparedness plan,
- Plan for your family's specific needs (seniors, disabled, children, pets),
- Teach all household members how to use a fire extinguisher,
- Create wallet cards for each family member with essential contact information,
- Organize or refresh your emergency supply kits,
- Store at least one gallon of water per person, per day, for 3 days and ideally for 2 weeks,
- What else would you need to be on your own for up to 2 weeks?
- What would you need if you are in your car or office when the earthquake strikes?
- Identify your building's weaknesses. Ask a local earthquake retrofitting contractor for a free structural inspection of your home or building. Also, review your insurance coverage, whether home-owner or renter. Consider whether earthquake insurance is right for you.
- Create a game where everyone responds to a signal by practicing Drop Cover and Hold On. Talk to your children about what to expect during and after an earthquake,
- Enroll in a local Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training to learn more about how to take care of yourself and your family when you are "on your own" after a disaster,
- Provide non-English speaking members of your family, neighborhood or community with written information in their language.

Don't become complacent, now is the time to prepare. Resident should be familiar with their Family Disaster Plan, evacuation routes and should have a store of emergency supplies. Residents can download a copy of the Family Disaster Plan, and other earthquake preparedness tips from [www.sbcfire.org/oes](http://www.sbcfire.org/oes) and clicking on the Disaster Preparedness link. Information on how to become a CERT member may also be found at this site.

###

COUNTY OF  
SAN BERNARDINO



WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

Media Contacts:  
Sandy Harmsen, Workforce Investment Board  
909.387.9862

Jessica McLeish  
909.659.6844

For Immediate Release

## **San Bernardino County Workforce Investment Board's On-The-Job Training Program Relieves Welfare Rolls**

*Local business hires and trains former welfare recipients through County's On-The-Job Training program*

San Bernardino, CA (February 23, 2011) – Through government and business partnerships in San Bernardino County, training programs are helping reduce the number of people on welfare, develop their skills and stimulate businesses growth in spite of a tough economy. The County of San Bernardino Board of Supervisors knows that assisting businesses during these tough times is the key to our local economic recovery and uses funding received through the Workforce Investment Act to provide this assistance.

J & R Fleet Services is a family-owned truck repair center based in Bloomington. The business had experienced steady growth since opening in 1998, but the economic slowdown of the last few years made it difficult to hire additional employees, especially trained workers.

“We begin working on our clients’ repairs within 30 minutes of arrival and no appointment is required,” explained Javier Rodriguez, one of the three brothers who owns and manages J & R Fleet Services. “In order to continue these quick turnaround times that we and our customers expect, we have to maintain enough staff to deliver on our promise of unsurpassed customer service.”

Six employees were hired last month into entry-level positions with J & R Fleet Services through Federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) dollars administered locally by the Workforce Investment Board of San Bernardino County. These federal dollars reimburse employers for the wages paid during a pre-determined training period. In this case, all six employees had been receiving government assistance prior to being hired.

“Nearly 1,000 residents of San Bernardino County have been placed in jobs through federally funded on-the-job training programs reducing government assistance while promoting self-reliance, economic sustainability and self-pride,” said Chair Josie Gonzales, County Fifth District Supervisor. “This is just one of the many ways that federal Workforce Investment Act funding is impacting the lives of our county’s residents.”

“We’re a small business and the On-the-Job Training program made it possible for us to hire nearly ten percent of our workforce, train them in entry-level positions and develop their skills at our company,” Rodriguez said. “We hired all of them into full-time positions and the work ethic and dedication they demonstrated has helped them quickly move up the ranks and earn promotions.”

To qualify for this program, participants must have been receiving government assistance. On-the-Job Training offers a way off the government’s payroll and a chance to develop marketable job skills that make participants a competitive member of the workforce.

“Taking into account the dollars spent to train versus recovery of these funds through federal wage withholding, we average a strong return on investment in less than one year,” said Sandy Harmsen, Executive Director of the Workforce Investment Board. “People get back to work with new skills, are removed from federally-subsidized assistance programs and return as proud and productive members of the community.”

This program allows employers to grow in a difficult economy by obtaining temporary training subsidies. In these ways, federal funding is working successfully to create more job opportunities for our local workforce.

“The benefits from participating in this program are numerous,” Rodriguez said. “We now have six dedicated new members in the J & R Fleet Services family, and we know that our company has helped to improve their lives. It would not have been possible without the federally-funded WIA program.”

For more information, employers and job seekers can inquire through the County’s Employment Resource Centers at (800) 451-JOBS.

### **About the Workforce Investment Board of San Bernardino County**

The Workforce Investment Board of San Bernardino County is comprised of private business representatives and public partners appointed by the County Board of Supervisors. The Board strives to strengthen the skills of the county’s workforce through partnerships with business, education and community-based organizations. The County Board of Supervisors is committed to providing county resources which generate jobs and investment.

The Workforce Investment Board, through the County’s Economic Development Agency and Workforce Development Department, operates the County’s Employment Resource Centers (ERCs) and Business Resource Centers (BRCs). The ERCs provide individuals with job training, placement and the tools to strengthen their skills to achieve a higher quality of life, and the BRCs support and provide services to the county’s businesses including employee recruitment.

###



**Media Contacts:**

Sandy Harmsen  
Workforce Investment Board  
909.387.9862

Jessica McLeish  
909.659.6844

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, WORKFORCE  
INVESTMENT BOARD AND MONSTER.COM TEAM UP TO HELP YOUTH  
PREPARE FOR CAREERS**

*“Making Your Future Count” workshops offer hope for more than 1,500 of the County’s  
unemployed and at-risk youth*

San Bernardino, CA (February 17, 2011) –Continuing its support of young people facing obstacles to employment, the County of San Bernardino’s Workforce Investment Board, whose members are appointed by the County’s Board of Supervisors, recently partnered with Monster.com to bring a series of workshops entitled, “Making Your Future Count.” Each workshop helps youth participants identify a future goal and develop a realistic plan to achieve it.

When Alyssa Borgfield, 19, enrolled at the PAL (Provisional Accelerated Learning) Center, she had no hope and no plan for her future. Once she met her new career mentor, everything changed. Finally, there was someone who cared about her and who could help her develop a career plan.

The County of San Bernardino Board of Supervisors invests county resources in projects which immediately generate jobs and utilize county programs in a manner which maximizes job creation. “We are committed to supporting programs that help our county’s future workforce develop the skills they need to build careers in our county,” said Chair Josie Gonzales, Fifth District Supervisor. “This partnership not only creates hope for our young people, but it helps create a skilled workforce that makes our county attractive for business and investment.”

Workshop facilitator Yvonne Williams is a nationally known author and talk show host who has inspired youth across the country with her story about growing up in poverty and beating incredible odds to achieve her dream career. She credits the PAL Center for changing the way she thought about her future.

“Making Your Future Count” workshops are designed to guide youth to a career path that best suits them by identifying their interests and connecting those to a career. The program also shows youth how to access post secondary education, community college, universities, vocational schools, financial aid, student loans, entrepreneurship, vocational training and job placement.

Monster’s “Making Your Future Count” program is an organization of educators in the business of improving lives by teaching, motivating and empowering youth of all ages through live, in-person interactive presentations. By May 5, 2011, it is expected more than 1,500 county youth ages 16-21, many who face significant obstacles to employment such as homelessness, teen parenting and poverty, will have participated in the six-month series of career path and positive life choice workshops.

These workshops are accessible to all youth enrolled in the County's federally funded youth programs. Eligibility requirements apply.

The Workforce Investment Board has funded 11 youth job centers in 2010 which served more than 1,200 youth with career counseling, reading and math remediation, tutoring, alternative secondary schooling, vocational training, leadership development and job placement.

"It is not a cliché that youth are our future," said Sandy Harmsen, Executive Director of the Workforce Investment Board and Director of the Workforce Development Department for San Bernardino County. "These youth services create opportunities for our future workforce to earn a degree, certificate or a paid internship, and obtain much needed career skills."

Borgfield is working toward entering a certified nursing assistant training program, with the eventual goal of becoming a registered nurse. "Right now it's hard to find a job because everyone wants you to have experience. The PAL Center and the Monster.com workshop have helped me see beyond the obstacles and create a plan to achieve my goal," she says proudly.

Provisional Accelerated Learning (PAL) Center is a community-based organization that is easily accessible to residents and provides quality, comprehensive educational services, with an emphasis on individuality, cultural diversity and an appreciation for tolerance. Residents who are interested in PAL Center programs are invited to visit: [www.palcenter.org/](http://www.palcenter.org/).

#### **About the Workforce Investment Board of San Bernardino County**

The Workforce Investment Board of San Bernardino County is comprised of private business representatives and public partners appointed by the County Board of Supervisors. The Board strives to strengthen the skills of the County's workforce through partnerships with business, education and community-based organizations.

The Workforce Investment Board, through the County's Economic Development Agency and Workforce Development Department, operates the County's Employment Resource Centers (ERCs) and Business Resource Centers (BRCs). The ERCs provide individuals with job training, placement and the tools to strengthen their skills to achieve a higher quality of life. The BRCs support and provide services to the County's businesses including employee recruitment.

The County's Economic Development Agency and Workforce Development Department has focused its efforts on competing globally for investment, retraining and finding employment for those who have lost jobs or are under-employed, and developing a more highly-educated and trained workforce.

###



# NEWS RELEASE

---

Release Date: March 1, 2011

SUPERIOR COURT OF  
CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO  
303 West Third Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Bernardino, Ca 92415-0302  
[www.sbcounty.gov/courts](http://www.sbcounty.gov/courts)

909-382-3532

Douglas M. Elwell  
Presiding Judge

Tressa S. Kentner  
Court Executive Officer

**FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION - DEADLINE INFORMATION INVOLVED**

## **DEADLINE EXTENDED FOR SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY 2011-2012 GRAND JURY**

The deadline to apply and be considered for the 2011-2012 Grand Jury has been extended to Friday, March 18, 2011.

Successful applicants will serve as Grand Jurors for the period beginning July 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012.

To be eligible for selection a person must be at least 18 years of age, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of California and the County of San Bernardino for at least one year prior to appointment. Potential Grand Jurors are also required to possess sufficient knowledge of the English language, be in possession of their natural faculties, of ordinary intelligence, of sound judgment and of good character. By law, elected public officials are not eligible

Service as a Grand Juror involves an average of 3 to 4 full working days per week. Compensation is \$25 per day plus meals and mileage associated with service. The regular Grand Jury meeting place is located in San Bernardino.

The County Grand Jury is charged by the California Penal Code to investigate all aspects of County, city and special district government, and to hear information on certain criminal investigations. All communications to the Grand Jury are confidential and the Grand Jury responds to all signed citizen complaints.

Applications may be obtained by calling (909) 387-3820, or you may visit the Courthouse at 351 North Arrowhead Avenue – Room 200, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0243 to pick one up, or it may be downloaded from the Grand Jury's webpage at [www.sbcounty.gov/grandjury](http://www.sbcounty.gov/grandjury).

Applications will be accepted through **March 18, 2011.**

###